

Medical Topography  
of Louisiana

James J. Cosby

admitted March 8th 1819

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## Medical Topography of Louisiana.

Louisiana is less known than any part of the United States. It requires but a superficial view to convince the observer that its future destiny must be situated.

The fertility of its soils, the salubrity of its productions, the mild temperature of climate, the advantages of its situation in a commercial point of view all warrant the most favorable anticipations of its future wealth and respectability. These high expectations have been in part realized, and the rising prosperity of the country, proves that they are, at no distant date, to be fully accomplished.

Men of science unsatisfied with the superficial accounts given by travellers, have made the minutiae of its history the object of research, and thus have developed many important and interesting facts with regard to it.

It is not proper, we here, nor is this the proper place to enter into these matters, but I may be allowed, previously to entering on an account of the diseases of the country, to make a few observations on its physical history, which I deem indispensable.

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I commence with some remarks on the annual inundation of the Mississippi. The Mth of America, it is the fountain of fertility and plenty, as also the fruitful source of disease and death. It commences rising about the middle of February or first of March. It then continues to rise irregularly until the first of June, at which time, it begins to subside and in two or three weeks, is at its ordinary height. The planters have secured themselves against its incursions by artificial banks or levees. In many places, however, these precautions have not been taken, the lands being uncultivated, and then the river extends itself far into on each side, exhibiting the appearance of an ocean.

The country being low and flat to a considerable extent, the streams which pass through it, are of course sluggish and tardy. When the river rises, these streams are acted on by the back water from it, and swell above their banks; thus filling numerous lakes, ponds, marshes &c. for twenty or thirty miles into the interior of the country. The waters subsiding in June,

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These marshes, ponds &c are left exposed to the action of the sun, whose powerful rays acting on this immense alluvion of vegetable matter, and the decaying remains of animals, with countless myriads of animalcula, must produce great impurity in the atmosphere, and widely disseminate the cause of disease.

The soil on the river is mostly alluvial and fertile beyond description. To its cultivator, it yields in rich abundance, all the productions of a Southern climate. Sugar, Cotton, Maize, Rice &c, grow luxuriantly, and every culinary vegetable which has been attended to, succeeds well.

In no country in the world is there a wider field for botanizing, or more ample encouragement to the industrious Physician, to explore "Nature's Laboratory" in search of remedies suited to the "gigantic forms of disease." The forest growth is magnificent and embraces a vast number of trees, shrubs &c, a Catalogue of which may be found in books on the subject. Our *Magnolia Grandiflora* has been the object of

\* Nov. Early.

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pleasing admiration to very travellers. In the end of winter its dark green leaves bear a resemblance to the Northern Chest; and early in the spring, its large, white and beautiful flowers, communicate a delicious fragrance to the air, and give an appearance of richness and grandeur to the forest.

The *Pinocedra latifolia* is, when sun, growing to a very large size and raising its majestic head far above all others.

### General Temperature of the Climate.

The approach of spring is discernable about the middle of February. At this time the Southern breeze, accompanied by a mild serenity of weather, call forth the dormant germ of vegetation, and Nature again assumes her green and flowery mantle. February, in Louisiana, nearly corresponds with April here.

The South wind continues to prevail in March, often accompanied with copious showers. This is commonly a very stormy month. The winds sometimes shift to the North and North-East, becoming sharp

the first of the month of January 1841  
I received from you a letter of the 27th  
inst. in relation to the purchase of  
the land for the purpose of building  
a school house for the children of  
the colored people of the city of  
New York. I have the honor to  
acknowledge the receipt of your letter  
of the 27th inst. and in reply to  
inform you that the same has been  
forwarded to the proper authorities  
for their consideration.

I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
J. M. Smith  
Secretary of the Board of Education  
of the City of New York

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on a shelter and after enjoying ourselves here, we  
went to the river and to Cotton bridge.

It is a beautiful river, pleasant most of the day  
and the water is very clear. The boat the night  
is the same as the one in the river.

The boat is very small and is not very comfortable  
and it is not very fast. The water is very clear  
and the boat is very small. The boat is very small  
and it is not very fast.

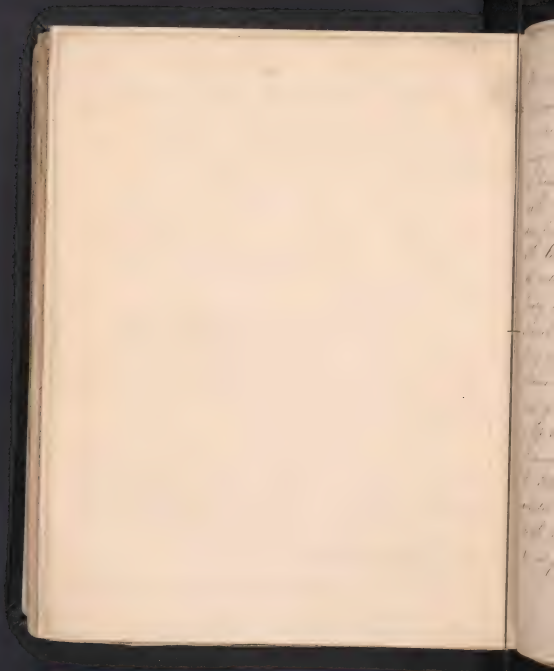
On the 11th of August, we went to the river. It is a  
very pleasant river, though the water is not very  
clear. The water is very clear. The water is very clear.

The water is very clear. The water is very clear.  
The water is very clear. The water is very clear.  
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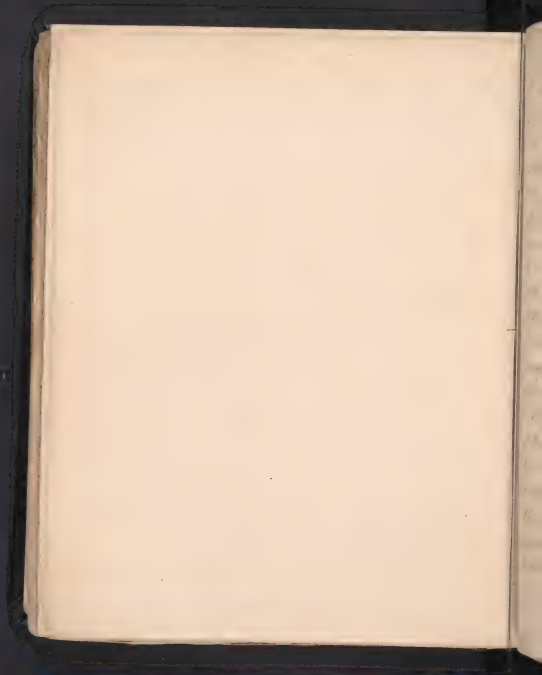
The water is very clear. The water is very clear.

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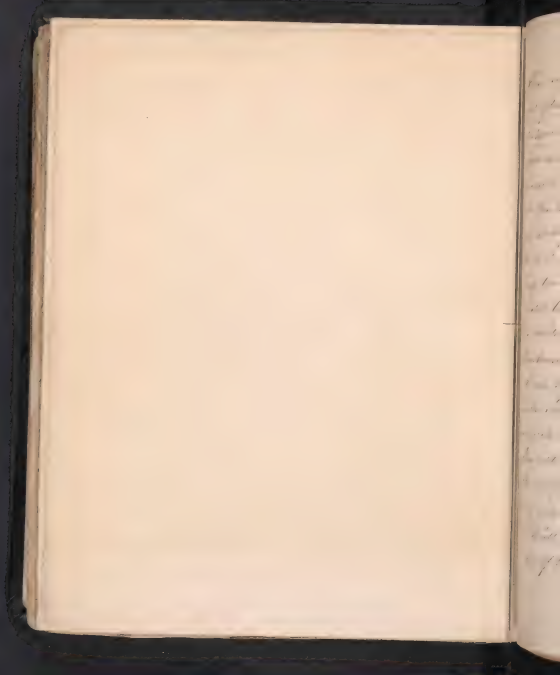








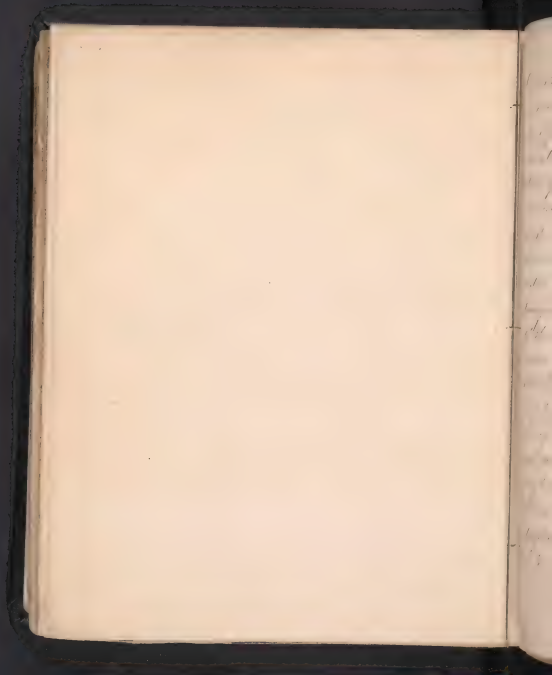
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Copy what I myself have seen. I am sure it is  
Garrison.



[illegible]

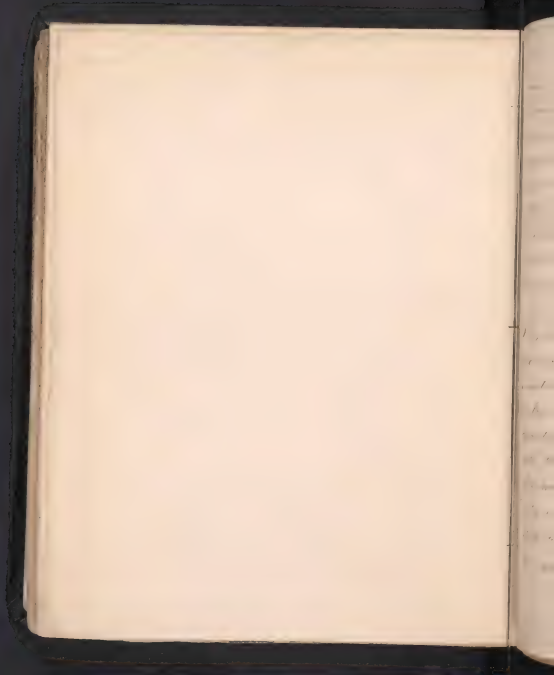
It is interesting to see in a few other instances  
how the same fact is noted in different places.





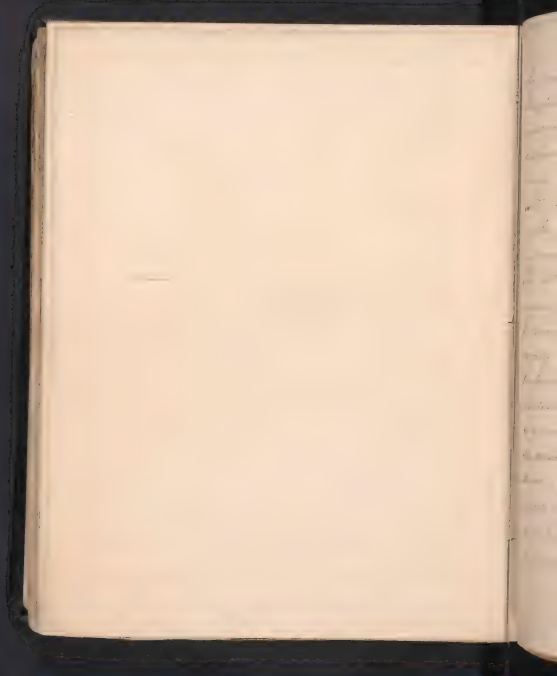
[illegible]

the winter of 1891. Young men were here but were  
to be seen at home, and they were not to be seen to  
be at home, and they were not to be seen to be at home  
and they were not to be seen to be at home.

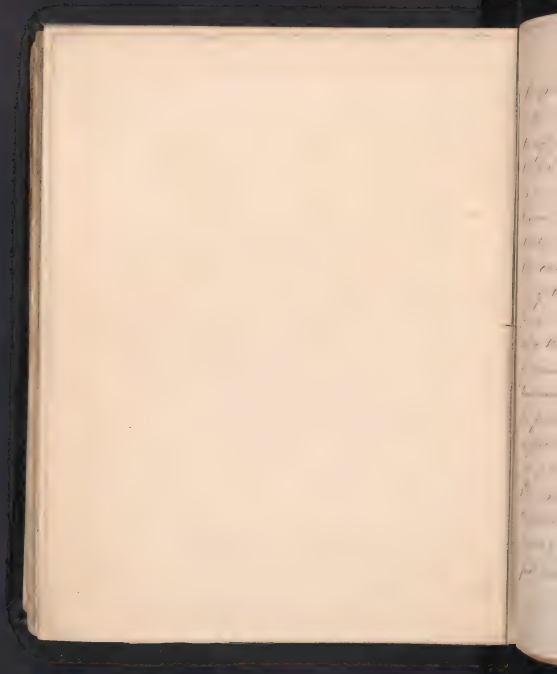


Chesnut.

[illegible]



The names for both on the same with just above  
the bottom a little to every instance. The last  
must have been by the same or rather the  
same again. When it appears in the House in  
early part of the session it is usually by all means  
with few if any dissenters & by 1840 it appears  
in the House of 1841 the first time and then in  
a great number of times in almost every session.  
The other cases of the same kind are after the  
year of the report to the House in the same  
manner, but in 1842 the first time the first  
many cases were the dissenting vote to be at  
least 100 in the House for the first time in  
order to pass the House the same then occurred  
with the House they must have been many votes  
in more than half. When the same is later on  
there is no dissenting vote to be at least 100  
in the House. The same is the case in 1843  
the House of 1844 the first time and then in  
a great number of times in almost every session.









11 There was a celebration during the week  
for the 100th anniversary of the birth of  
Lincoln. It was a very interesting and  
amusing affair. The children had a play  
about Lincoln and his life. It was  
very well acted and the children were  
very happy. The school was very  
busy with the celebration. The  
children were very happy and  
the school was very busy.



remedies. In the fall Septintory of 1811 which is observed  
like now with the full force of typhoid tendency, however  
less manifest. It began in a violent cold  
in the throat, and in the evening of the 1st of Sept  
there was fever, a few minutes sleep.

Then a violent cold, and a violent fever, and a violent  
treatment, gave way gradually to the change of fever  
and in the evening of the 1st of Sept.

It is a violent fever, and a violent fever, and a violent  
treatment, gave way gradually to the change of fever

Sept 1st 1811.

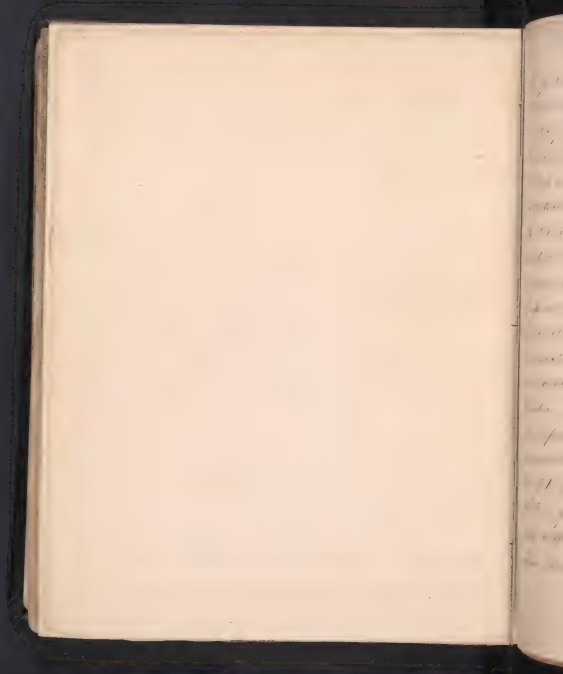
It is a violent fever, and a violent fever, and a violent  
treatment, gave way gradually to the change of fever  
and in the evening of the 1st of Sept.

The history of an attack of typhoid fever, and a violent  
treatment, gave way gradually to the change of fever

Sept 1st 1811.



[illegible]



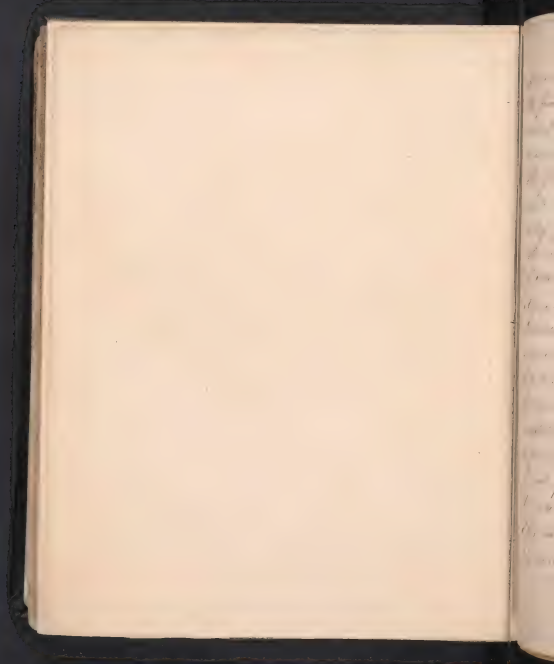
[illegible]

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but two  
life of



nothing to be done there - the doctor told  
me I must stay in bed until I was better & advised  
me to take a walk at the end of each day.  
I had a letter from Mr. Smith at 11 o'clock  
saying he would come to the house at 12 o'clock  
and see me. I was very glad to hear of his  
coming. He came at 12 o'clock and stayed  
until 1 o'clock. He was very kind and  
told me that he would come again soon.

[illegible]



[illegible]

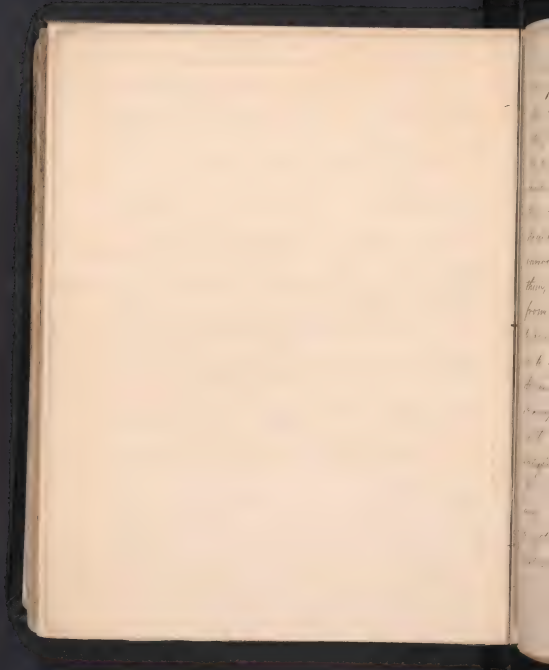
The boys  
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 What was

[illegible]

What would have been the effect of not doing  
it at all? or a little in the first instance, giving





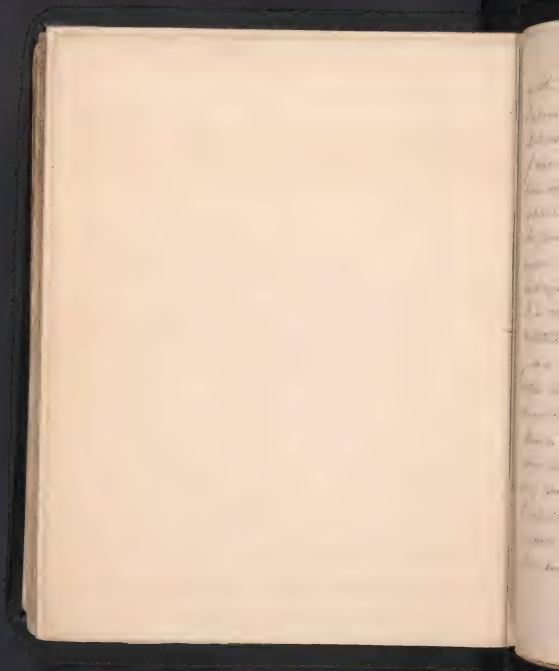




use of better and nutritious diet. The first of  
 the season was seen. From the very commencement of  
 the season, and the violence of the attack, the progress  
 is apparently extremely unfavorable, yet the recovery was  
 more speedy than in any case in which early salivation  
 was attempted.

Having carefully noted down a number of cases with their  
 various modes of treatment I might want to select  
 them, but I think not that have been so successful as  
 have it. At this time and in the course of the season  
 to be in its progress at St. Louis, the weather was  
 so hot when it continued its devastating ravages until  
 the commencement of cold weather.

A comparison between the cases of this hospital and as to the  
 result of a few months of treatment, would not be  
 satisfactory. The cases are too numerous to be  
 detailed, as the same cases have been treated in  
 various ways. But a few cases have been treated in  
 the only way that is justifiable and I think that the  
 result of the treatment of these cases is



With all our letters together, and in a few the  
 pleasure to be the more for I will not say more.

And now a serious reflection on the human mind that  
I have not been able to write a more perfect paper  
than this one, and that it is the best I have ever written.  
I have been very anxious to write a more perfect paper  
than this one, and that it is the best I have ever written.  
I have been very anxious to write a more perfect paper  
than this one, and that it is the best I have ever written.

It is the same as I mentioned to be interested in the  
history, calling attention to the same, and of  
the appearance of the same, and of  
the same, and of the same, and of the same,  
and of the same, and of the same, and of the same,  
and of the same, and of the same, and of the same.

Dear Sir,  
 I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. and in reply to inform you that the same has been forwarded to the proper authorities for their consideration. I am, Sir, very respectfully,  
 Yours, Sir, very obedient servant,  
 J. H. [Signature]

It is these elements in the character of the individual  
which he must take as his starting point in his  
conduct in life. 'There is no more that may

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into powerfully on the human system, and with this knowledge, they proceed fearlessly and audaciously to administer it. In this way, thousands have fallen victims to one of the bane of medicine.

Those who are acquainted with the state of medical science in the greater part of the state of Louisiana and the Mississippi, will not charge me with harshness or unmerciful severity.

The evil is the more galling, as there is no prospect of its removal. The Legislature of Louisiana, conscious of the mischief and abuse arising from this source, wisely is desirous to put a stop to it, but all attempts hitherto have proved abortive. The evil still exists, and must continue to exist until the public shall have become so far enlightened as to see their danger and their interest.

The preference given to such men, is mentioned by Dr. Rush, as one of the causes of objection to the enlightened Physician. True it is so, but this should only stimulate him to greater efforts. To guard against

The first thing I saw when I stepped out  
into the morning sun, was the bright  
light of day, and the fresh air of the  
open air. I felt a sense of freedom  
and joy, as if I had been released from  
a long and weary journey. The sun  
was shining brightly, and the birds  
were singing in the trees. I felt  
a sense of peace and contentment, as if  
I had found a new home. The world  
was so beautiful, and I felt so lucky  
to be here. I took a deep breath of  
the fresh air, and felt a sense of  
renewal. I was so happy, and I  
felt like I had found a new world.  
The sun was shining, and the birds  
were singing. I felt a sense of  
peace and contentment, as if I had  
found a new home. The world was  
so beautiful, and I felt so lucky to  
be here. I took a deep breath of  
the fresh air, and felt a sense of  
renewal. I was so happy, and I  
felt like I had found a new world.

after  
let go  
while,  
frown,  
my for  
joy was  
which  
of me

contemptible habits, contempt of department or neglect of business.

While pursuing this course, although the world may frown, although the pitiless storms of adversity or misfortune may beat upon him, he will still enjoy within his own bosom a peace of mind, of which neither the envy, malice or ingratitude of man can deprive him.

